From:	Lawrence Blum
To:	City Council
Cc:	Clerk
Subject:	resolution concerning Hewlett Packard
Date:	Wednesday, April 18, 2018 10:19:44 PM

Dear Cambridge City Councillors

We would like to encourage you to support the resolution requiring the city of Cambridge to end purchasing and procurement from Hewlett Packard companies. We are persuaded that HP is complicit in the deeply unjust and oppressive conditions that the Israeli government has imposed on Palestinians, by providing the servers that the government uses to run its population registry, servers and technology used by Israel's prison system, and personal computers used by the Israeli military. The injustice of Israeli treatment of Palestinians both within its borders and especially in the West Bank and Gaza is recognized the world over. As American Jews, we are deeply pained that the Israeli government has become a pariah in the world community for its treatment of Palestinians.

The Hewlett Packard company is complicit in this regime, and we feel that our city should take a stand by severing its ties with this company until such time as HP withdraws from its direct assistance to the Israeli government for the practices mentioned above. Economic divestment is an important form of non-violent protest available to the city. Cambridge has often been a leader in standing up for human rights. We have lived in Cambridge for over 50 years and well remember the campaign against the Polaroid corporation for its contribution to the South African apartheid regime. This was a proud period for the city, and it is generally recognized that the boycotts of companies tied to the apartheid regime contributed to ending apartheid.

We believe that the Israeli treatment of Palestinians constitutes a kind of apartheid also. We urge you to support the measure before you at the April 23 meeting.

sincerely yours,

Lawrence Blum

Judith E. Smith

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